

# CHAPTER 301

(Senate Bill 240)

AN ACT concerning

## **State Government – Commemorative ~~Months~~ Month – Black History ~~Months~~ Month**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to proclaim the ~~months of January and month of February~~ to be “Black History ~~Months~~ Month”.

BY adding to

Article – State Government  
Section 13–502  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2004 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

### Preamble

WHEREAS, February is the National Black History Month; and

~~WHEREAS, Many important events occurred during the month of January of special importance to all Americans that play an important role in Black History, including the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, the passage the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution by Congress on January 31, 1865, which abolished slavery, and the ratification of the 24th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution on January 23, 1964, which made it illegal to condition the right to vote in federal elections on the payment of a poll tax or other tax and made it easier for Black Americans to register to vote; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Many famous Black Americans were born during the month of January, including Martin Luther King, Jr., George Washington Carver, Sojourner Truth, and Nathaniel Turner; and~~

WHEREAS, All Americans should learn about and recognize the achievements of Black Americans, the important role that Black Americans played throughout the entire history of the United States, and the scientific, literary, and social impact of Black Americans on our world today; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly believes that the ~~months of January and month of February~~ should be commemorated as ~~the~~ Black History ~~Months~~ Month in Maryland; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article - State Government**

**13-502.**

(A) IN RECOGNITION OF THE HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS THAT BLACK AMERICANS HAVE MADE TO THE STATE, THE GOVERNOR SHALL PROCLAIM THE ~~MONTHS OF JANUARY AND~~ MONTH OF FEBRUARY EACH YEAR AS BLACK HISTORY ~~MONTHS~~ MONTH.

(B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL URGE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS TO OBSERVE BLACK HISTORY ~~MONTHS~~ MONTH PROPERLY WITH APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS, CEREMONIES, AND ACTIVITIES.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2007.

**Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2007.**